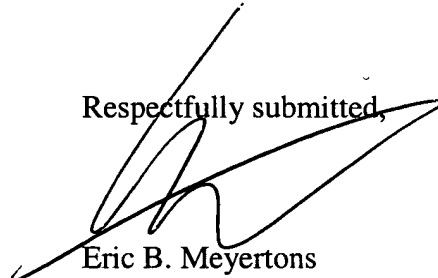


Applicant respectfully petitions the Commissioner for a two-month extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 within which to respond to the Official Action mailed August 21, 2003, such extension allowing the undersigned until February 21, 2003 to respond. If any further extension of time is required, Applicant hereby requests the appropriate extension of time.

Inventors: Halimaoui et al.
Appl. Ser. No.: 09/744,877
Atty. Dkt. No.: 5310-03000

A fee authorization is enclosed for the extension of time fee. However, if the fee authorization is missing or insufficient, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 50-1505\5053-35700\EBM.

Respectfully submitted,



Eric B. Meyertons
Reg. No. 34,876

Attorney for Applicant

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